



Louisiana Housing Finance Agency

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LHFA Board Approves Revised Budget for Alternative Housing Pilot Program *Agency endorses cost-efficient proposal after long negotiations*

Baton Rouge, LA (August 23, 2007)- The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency's Board of Commissioners approved the budget to implement the Katrina Cottages Alternative Housing Pilot Program. The approval comes after long negotiations between the LHFA and pilot program conductor Cypress Realty Partners, on a cost-efficient budget that maximizes the expenditures of federal funds.

"This Agency stands by its efforts to have a budget that increases social services components, provides sufficient funds to properly administer and manage the grant, and also maximizes the number of cottages and square footage of living space for displaced residents," said Milton Bailey, president of the LHFA. "Our Agency worked diligently to ensure that private profits were within industry norms and that unmet alternative housing needs for our displaced residents is maximized."

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program is expected to yield over 500 units to residents who are displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In further developing the new concept for transitional and permanent housing, the LHFA included in the scope of services to be provided resident-driven neighborhood development and empowerment opportunities and community enrichment programs designed to enhance and promote sustainable communities. Plans also include the construction of neighborhood centers on each of the sites to serve as a venue for community activities.

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program was an initiative funded by the federal government to improve the existing disaster recovery housing plans. Last year Congress, allocated over \$400 million to FEMA to conduct the pilot program. Through FEMA's evaluation process, the Cypress Realty Partners proposal was selected to implement the concept. Based on the success of the initiative, this program can be implemented in times of natural disasters as an alternative to travel trailers.

Plans are underway at the LHFA to move forward in implementing the pilot program in several areas throughout the state.

To learn more about the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency and its efforts in housing recovery go to www.lhfa.state.la.us.

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The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) was created by the Louisiana Legislature to address the shortage of safe and affordable housing in Louisiana. Since 1980, LHFA has administered federal and state funds through programs designed to advance the development of energy-efficient, safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income families. Post-Katrina, LHFA has been a viable resource to the development of multi-family housing and affordable housing finance opportunities for Louisiana residents.